calender year out of an approved list of events/programme which includes snow skiing, trekking, ballooning etc. No scholarships are offered, under this scheme by the UGC to the students. An amount of Rs. 23.28 lakhs and Rs. 33.74 lakhs were paid to Universities and Colleges during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively under the scheme.

Strength of Judges in Jharkhand High Court

†3857. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government consider the present sanctioned strength of judges in Jharkhand High Court as sufficient;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the present sanctioned strength of judges; and

(c) the criterion for fixing the number of judges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) The sanctioned strength of the Jharkhand High Court is 12 Judges/Additional Judges against which 11 Judges are currently functioning.

In terms of the directions contained in the judgement of the Supreme Court dated October 6, 1993 in the case of Supreme Court Advocates on Record and anr. Vs. Union of India, and discussions in the Chief Ministers' Conference held in 1993, judge strength of the High Courts is reviewed every three years. The last review was undertaken in the year 2003, including the review of judge strength of Jharkhand High Court. The next review is due in 2006 for which the High Courts, including the Jharkhand High Court, have been requested to furnish data.

As per the guidelines, the required strength of permanent Judges in a High Court is worked out by dividing the average institution of main cases during the last five year by the national average or the average rate of disposal of main cases per Judge per year in that High Court, whichever is higher.

Similarly, the reqired strength of Additional judges in a High Court is worked out by dividing the number of main cases pending over two years

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

by the national average or the average rate of disposal of main cases per Judge per year in that High Court, whichever is higher.

If the disposal per Judge in the concerned High Court is below even the national average then instead of increasing the strength, the concerned High Court is required to take steps for improvement in the rate of disposal of cases. If the average disposal of concerned High Court is above the national average then increase in Judge strength is accordingly considered. The strength of Additional Judges is reviewed only if there is an increase in the arrears of the pending cases during the last 5 years and the disposal per Judge is above the national average.

Cases Disposed off by Mediation Cells

3858. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a "Mediation Cell" at Tees Hazari Courts has disposed off 234 cases in November and December out of the 532 cases received by it; and

(b) if so, whether such Mediation Cells are proposed to be opened in some selected District Courts in the country so that outstanding cases could be amicably settled through this method?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY) (a) The Mediation Cell at Tees Hazari Courts Complex has disposed off 100 cases in the month of November and December out of 217 cases received.

(b) The National Legal Services Authority has proposed to start training programmes for lawyers and judicial officers in all the 22 High Courts and 22 selected District Courts. After imparting training to the lawyers and judicial officers, Mediation Cells shall be established in the selected districts.

Protection of whistle-blowers

3859. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Law Commission of India, which had